

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 17**  
**INCIDENT NO. 2000-016**  
**DATE: July 5, 2000 TIME: 9:30 a.m.**

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Flooding and ground saturation – Due to a series of storms and high water tables, resulting from eight years of consecutive flooding.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: The Red River of the North recently crested at two locations as runoff from recent severe summer storms headed north. The river at Oslo crested on June 30 at 33.72 feet; flood stage is 28 feet. The river measured 29.66 feet. At Drayton, the river had crested today at 33.65 feet; flood stage is 32 feet. The level this morning measured 33.35 feet. Further downstream at Pembina, a crest of 37 to 37.5 feet was expected on July 6; flood stage is 42 feet. Last week, the Red River crested at Grand Forks. The river level measured 29.66 today; flood stage is 28 feet.

In Pembina County, as the Red River rises, damage is beginning to occur to the legal drains and saturated township roads. Early estimates indicate road damages in the eastern portion of Pembina County in the townships of Drayton, Lincoln, and Joliette. The Drayton Dam has 18 to 20 feet of water over it, and observers have reported washing off embankment on both sides. The recreation area in the park at the city of Drayton, as well as the area near the dam, is under water and will require cleanup. Eight pipeline crossings on a Joillette Township road were damaged by washouts and have since been repaired. Drains east of I-29 have begun to cave in and are filled with debris.

On July 4<sup>th</sup>, in Pierce County, a tornado leveled a barn, quonset and grain bins on a farmstead 21 miles southeast of Rugby. The home was shifted from its foundation and lost most of its roof. The family was temporarily trapped in the house because live electrical wires blocked their exit. Up to 20 round hay bales were lifted and moved one-half mile from their original location. Trees in the shelter belt were uprooted or broken above the trunks and bark was stripped off. The farm owner reported extremely high winds, dime-sized hail and two inches of rainfall.

The Sheyenne River dropped below its 16-foot flood stage at West Fargo and its 884-foot flood stage in Harwood on Friday. The National Weather Service (NWS) reported that river levels dropped significantly due to a lack of significant widespread rainfall this past week; however, with expected scattered thunderstorms in the days ahead, a rise may occur again. The level of the Sheyenne today measured 12.8 feet at West Fargo and 876.59 feet at Harwood.

In Eddy County, New Rockford residents reported problems with rising water tables, moldy basements and heaving basement floors during a recent visit by a staff member of the Lake Region Human Service Center in Devils Lake. County officials expect additional

reports of damages after water recedes. However, recent rainfall has kept grounds saturated.

Continued intermittent rains have added to basement seepage and agricultural problems in Nelson County. Cattle producers are having difficulty finding dry ground. Wet trails and water-logged ditches and roads are preventing access to cattle pastures. Officials report an increase in calls from rural families whose wells have been inundated. A farmstead remains isolated by floodwaters.

In Steele County, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Emergency Board places crop losses to 23,000 acres at 60 percent. Affected crops include soybeans, edible beans, corn, wheat, barley, flax and canola. Some soil erosion has occurred.

During the past weekend, Dickey County received three-quarters of an inch to 2.25 inches of rain during a storm that followed the North Dakota-South Dakota state line. Hail accompanied the storm.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: The American Red Cross is providing temporary shelter to a family who experienced damages to their home and farmstead during a July 4<sup>th</sup> tornado.

The Red Cross has provided 12,410 meals to date to disaster workers and flood victims.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: On June 28, Governor Schafer requested that the USDA State Emergency Board develop formal Damage Assessment Reports for all North Dakota counties by July 31, 2000. The reports will be used to determine potential eligibility for a USDA Secretarial Disaster Declaration. Such a declaration could result in additional emergency credit programs for producers and agriculture-related businesses that may not be provided by the existing Presidential Disaster Declaration.

Local and state health and emergency management officials have requested through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), technical support from the Environmental Protection agency and U.S. Public Health regarding indoor air quality.

The Pembina County Board of Commissioners has issued an emergency declaration on June 30.

The Turtle River State Park reopened on June 30 after Turtle River floodwaters forced its closure and caused an estimated \$500,000 in damages. Some areas will remain closed to the public during cleanup and restoration work.

On June 28, the first day that North Dakotans could begin the disaster application process, the FEMA teleregistration center had received more than 500 calls by noon. By close of business July 2, the center had received 1,926 applications, with the majority – 1,712 -- from Cass County.

State and federal officials are considering opening Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage for grazing and haying in eastern North Dakota counties that have recently experienced flooding and in western counties facing drought.

The N.D. Department of Health issued public instructions to address mold problems quickly to prevent illness. The news release indicated that when airborne mold spores are present in large numbers, they can trigger allergic reactions, asthma episodes, infections and other respiratory problems. In addition, exposure can cause development of an allergy to mold, resulting in long-term problems.

The Bank of North Dakota (BND) has initiated its disaster relief program and will provide business, residential and agricultural loan assistance. Bank officials will provide deferments to borrowers adversely impacted by flooding. BND will provide a line of credit to the city of Fargo, if needed, and assistance to North Dakota State University (NDSU) based on documented needs to aid the school's disaster recovery.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

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Douglas C. Friez, State Director